Agitation on Conversion in Orissa

5563. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Hindu Jagaran Sammukhya' has threatened to launch agitation in Orissa alleging Rampant conversion by Church and Christian Missionaries as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 8th April, 2000; and

(b) if so, the action being proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per available information, Hindu Jagaran Sammukhya threatened to launch agitational activities in the State of Orissa, if the State Government failed to stop the ongoing conversions by the Christian Missionaries in Orissa.

However, Article 25(1) of the Constitution of India provides that subject to public order, morality and health, and to the provisions of part III, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagnate religion. The Govt. of Orissa has enacted. The Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967 for prohibition of conversion from one religion to another by use of force or allurement/inducement or fradulent means.

Public Order and Police are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. As such, the registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

Advanced off-shore patrol vessels

5564. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that an order for three advanced off-shore patrol vessels were placed with Goa Shipyard Ltd. in 1990.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the execution of the construction by Goa Shipyard Ltd. was way behind the schedule;

(c) whether the delivery of third vessel has been obtained by the Coast Guard; and